

From: Ellison, Bradford <bradford.ellison@squirepb.com>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Bottoms, Bradley <Bradley.Bottoms@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Kingston, Jack <jack.kingston@squirepb.com>
Subject: FYI: Letter to USTR Urging Ethiopia's AGOA Reinstatement

Hi Bradley,

I hope all is well. As you likely know, Congressman Don Beyer sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai on Friday urging her to initiate an out-of-cycle review regarding Ethiopia's eligibility for benefits under AGOA. He underscored his hope that the "truce brokered by the African Union, which allows unhindered humanitarian supplies to Tigray, will lead to Ethiopia's swift reentry into AGOA." Rep. Beyer's letter is attached for reference.

I am writing to learn any reaction Congressman Garamendi may have to Rep. Beyer's letter, and whether he is now willing to lead members in sending a letter to Amb. Tai to urge reinstatement. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You,
Bradford

Please note that Squire Patton Boggs and I both work on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia and are registered under FARA.



Bradford Ellison

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From: Ellison, Bradford <bradford.ellison@squirepb.com>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Tommy.Reynolds@mail.house.gov
Cc: Kingston, Jack <jack.kingston@squirepb.com>
Subject: FYI: Letter to USTR Urging Ethiopia's AGOA Reinstatement

Hi Tommy,

I hope all is well. As you likely know, Congressman Don Beyer sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai on Friday urging her to initiate an out-of-cycle review regarding Ethiopia's eligibility for benefits under AGOA. He underscored his hope that the "truce brokered by the African Union, which allows unhindered humanitarian supplies to Tigray, will lead to Ethiopia's swift reentry into AGOA." Rep. Beyer's letter is attached for reference.

I am writing to learn any reaction Congressman Carter may have to Rep. Beyer's letter, and whether he is now willing to lead members in sending a letter to Amb. Tai to urge reinstatement. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You,
Bradford

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(CHAIRMAN)

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Washington, DC 20515-4608

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November 18, 2022

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

As the Government of Ethiopia implements a peace agreement with the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which includes a cessation of hostilities and unhindered access to humanitarian supplies, we urge you to consider initiating an out-of-cycle review regarding Ethiopia's eligibility for benefits under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Since its designation as an AGOA beneficiary in 2000, Ethiopia has had one the fastest growing economies in the world. This era of rapid economic growth coincided with a dramatic reduction in Ethiopia's poverty rate and a rise in its education, health, and living standards.¹ Ethiopia's inclusion in AGOA helped foster the growth of a burgeoning manufacturing industry, which provided stable employment for tens of thousands of Ethiopian workers. Its membership in AGOA also dramatically expanded Ethiopia's importance as a U.S. trading partner, with imports from Ethiopia to the U.S. growing 406.5 percent between 2009 and 2019.²

After losing its AGOA benefits, Ethiopia has seen firms scale back expansion plans, close factories, and begin laying off thousands of workers.³ This trend will likely accelerate if Ethiopia remains excluded from AGOA. Before its termination as an AGOA beneficiary, the Ethiopian economy was already under immense strain due to the COVID-19 pandemic and high inflation. Combined with impacts of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, the country risks seeing the economic gains of the last two decades disappear. Pushing the nation deeper into poverty by continuing to exclude them from AGOA could further destabilize the country and severely weaken the U.S. – Ethiopia relationship.

We appreciate the work you have already done to ensure that the Ethiopian Government is aware of what it must do to meet the AGOA eligibility criteria. We urge you to maintain an open dialogue with your counterparts in Ethiopia on the benchmarks that must be met for Ethiopia to

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/ethiopia-poverty-assessment>

² <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/africa/east-africa/ethiopia>

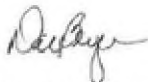
³ <https://www.voanews.com/a/ethiopia-s-industrial-hopes-dwindle-as-conflict-sanctions-take-toll/6739509.html>

come back into compliance, and that these do not deviate from AGOA's eligibility requirements.⁴

For the last two decades, AGOA has served as one the most important tools in strengthening U.S. – Ethiopian ties. It has also accelerated Ethiopia's economic growth and improved living standards. Our hope is that the recent truce brokered by the African Union,⁵ which allows unhindered humanitarian supplies to Tigray, will lead to Ethiopia's swift reentry into AGOA.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress.

⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 3703

⁵ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/ethiopia-tigrayan-rebels-reach-truce-in-two-year-civil-war-11667418320>